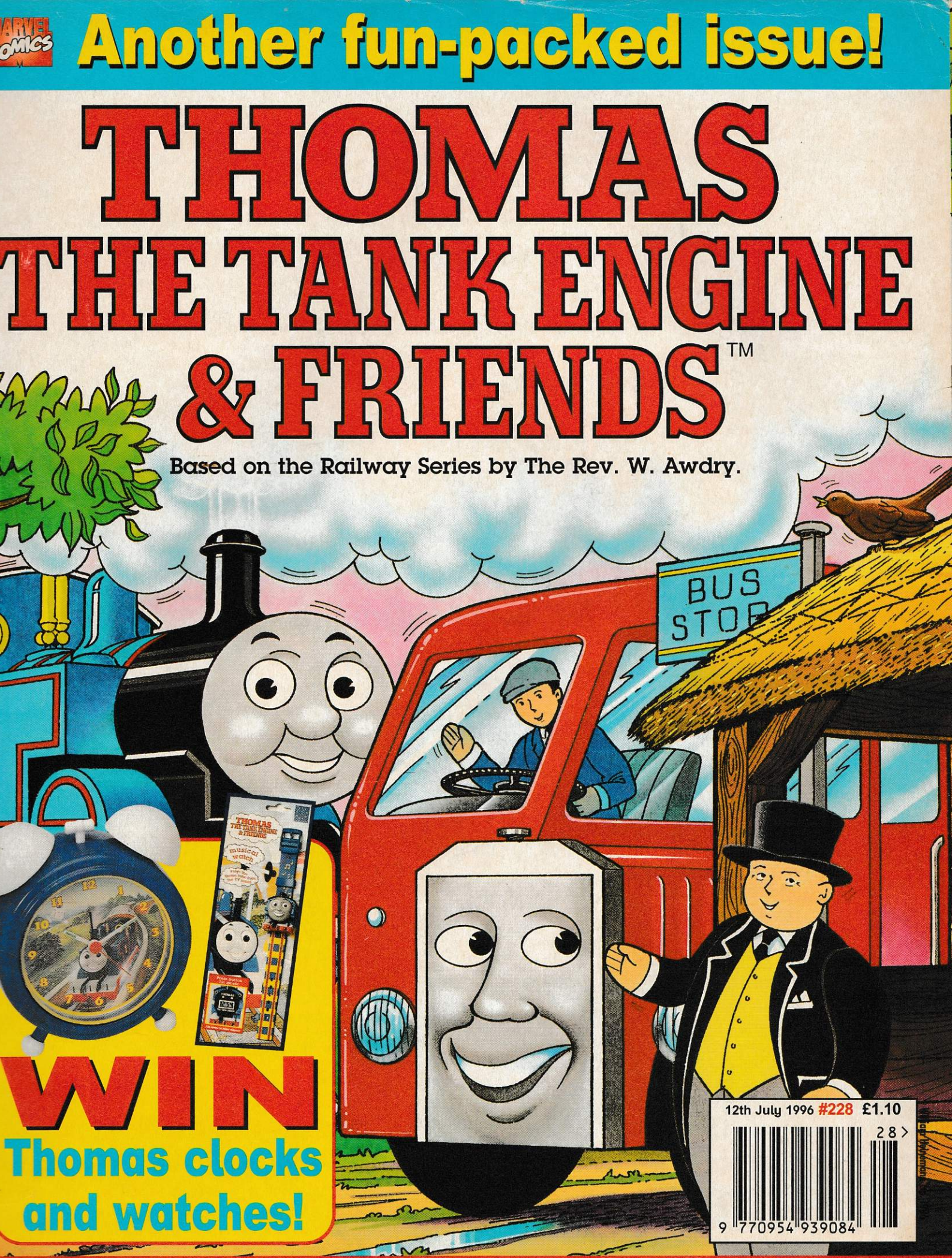
MARVEL COMICS

Another fun-packed issue!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



WIN Thomas clocks and watches!

12th July 1996 #228 £1.10

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All about Diesel! Great new stories!

Hello, everybody!

In this issue....

3 Special Shelter!

8 Make a mask!

10 The Play Train!

12 Sticky Business!

16 All about Diesel!

18 Lost Property!

21 Join the dots!

22 Competition!

23 Puzzle fun!

24 Crafty Engines!

28 Mail train!

32 Photo album: Rusty

Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

.....

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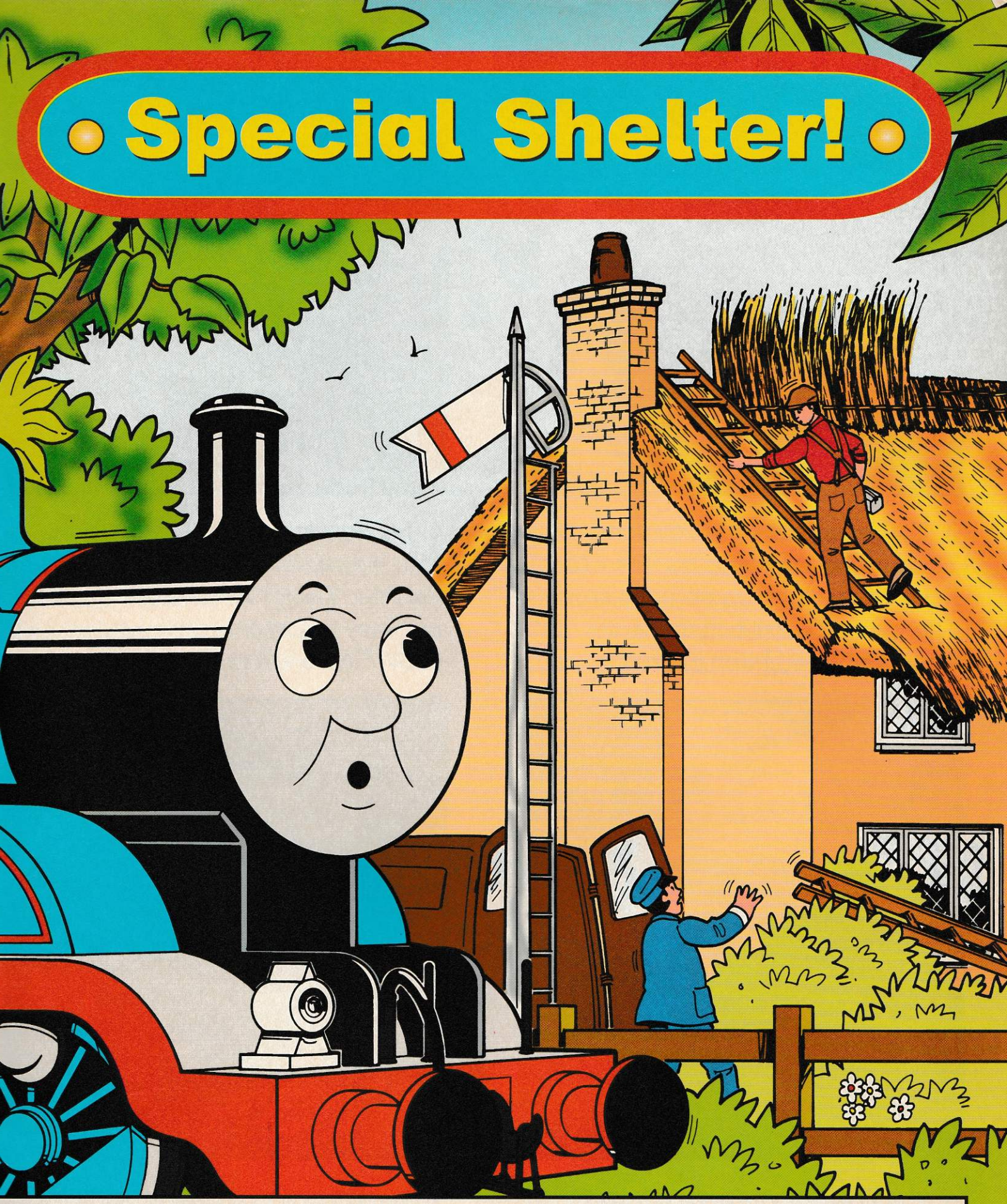
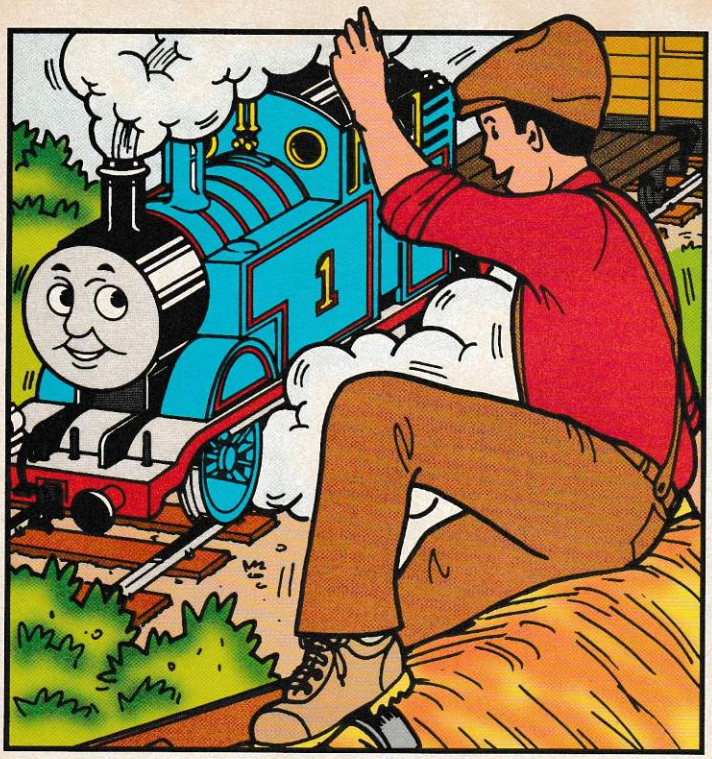
Special Shelter!

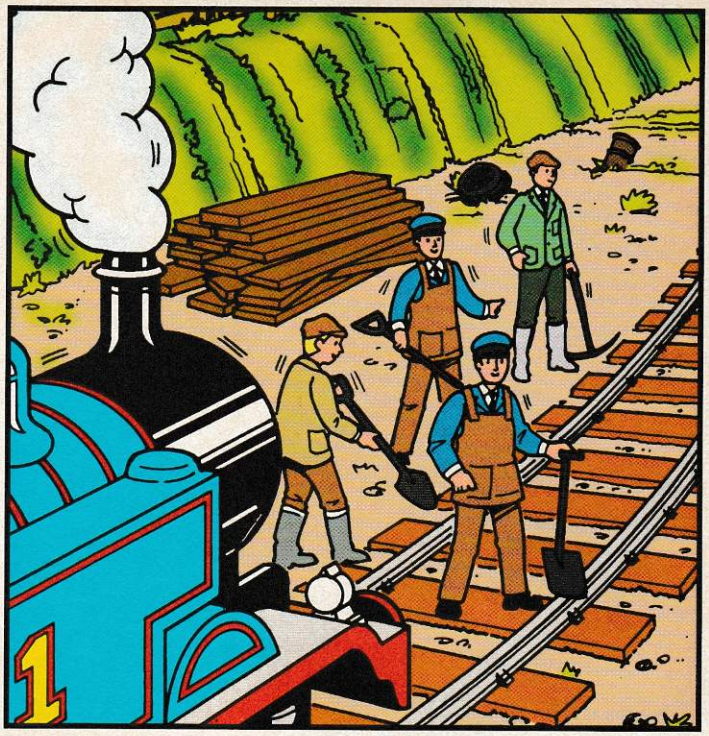


1. Thomas had just stopped at a signal on his branch line. Nearby, a man was working on a cottage roof. He was re-thatching it. The thatcher waved to Thomas and his driver.

2. Suddenly, the thatcher's ladder slipped. It fell to the ground with a crash! Now the man could not get down. Thomas' guard hurried over and put the ladder up again for him.

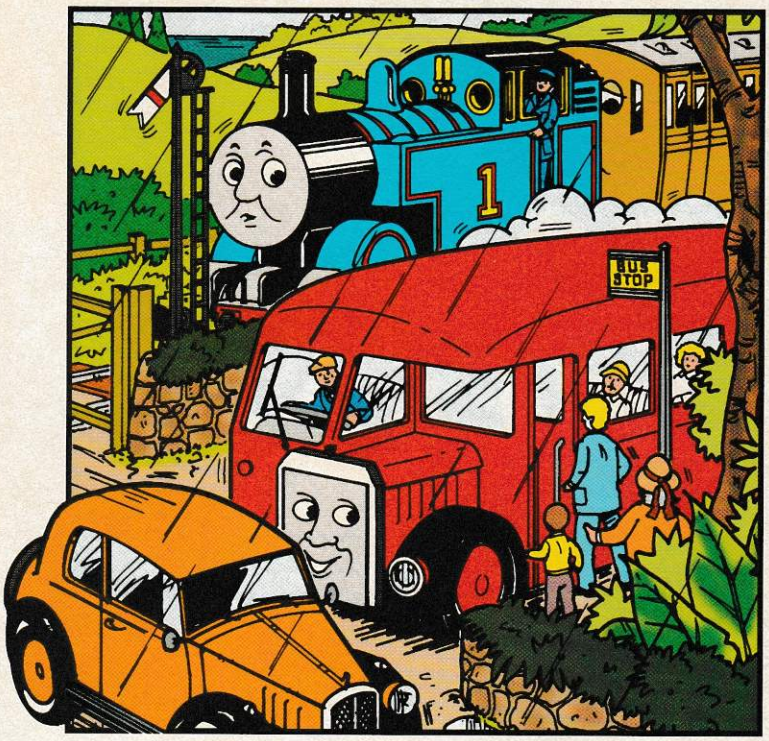


3. "Thanks!" called the thatcher. "If Thomas hadn't come by, I would have been stuck up here for ages. The owner of the cottage is out." Thomas puffed happily on his way.



4. He had to collect a works gang who had been repairing a section of the line. They had placed big, new timbers, called sleepers, under the track. There were some left over.

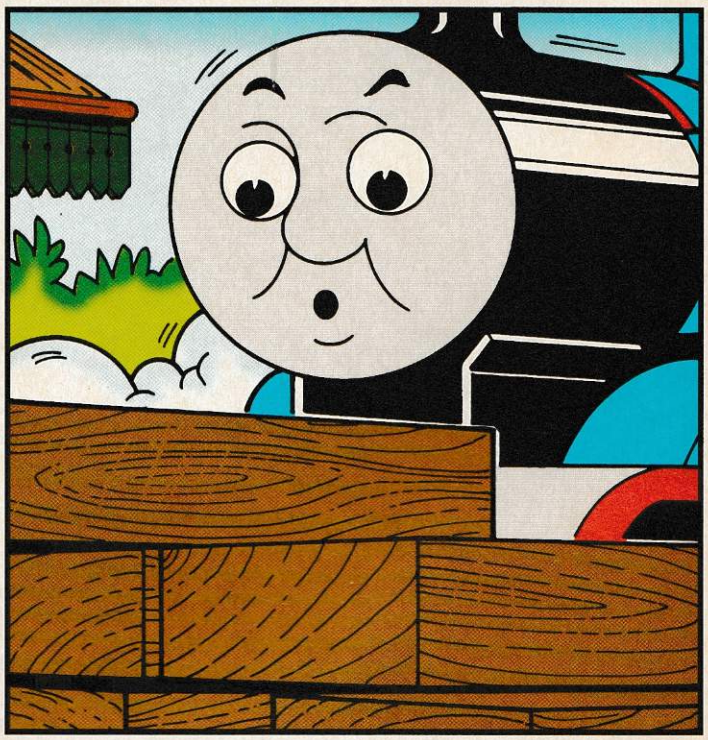
5. The gangers loaded them into Thomas' truck. Then the men climbed aboard his works van. Thomas backed into the siding to turn round, before setting off for the Main Station.



6. Next day, it was raining. As Thomas pulled up at a level-crossing in the countryside, he saw some people standing at a bus stop. They were waiting for Bertie the Bus.

7. “They’re getting wet,” Thomas called to his driver. Then Bertie arrived. “About time!” said Thomas. “My passengers sit and shelter at a station while they wait for me!”

8. “It’s not my fault,” replied Bertie. “The bus company can’t afford to put a shelter here.” The rain stopped and the crossing gates opened so Thomas got underway.

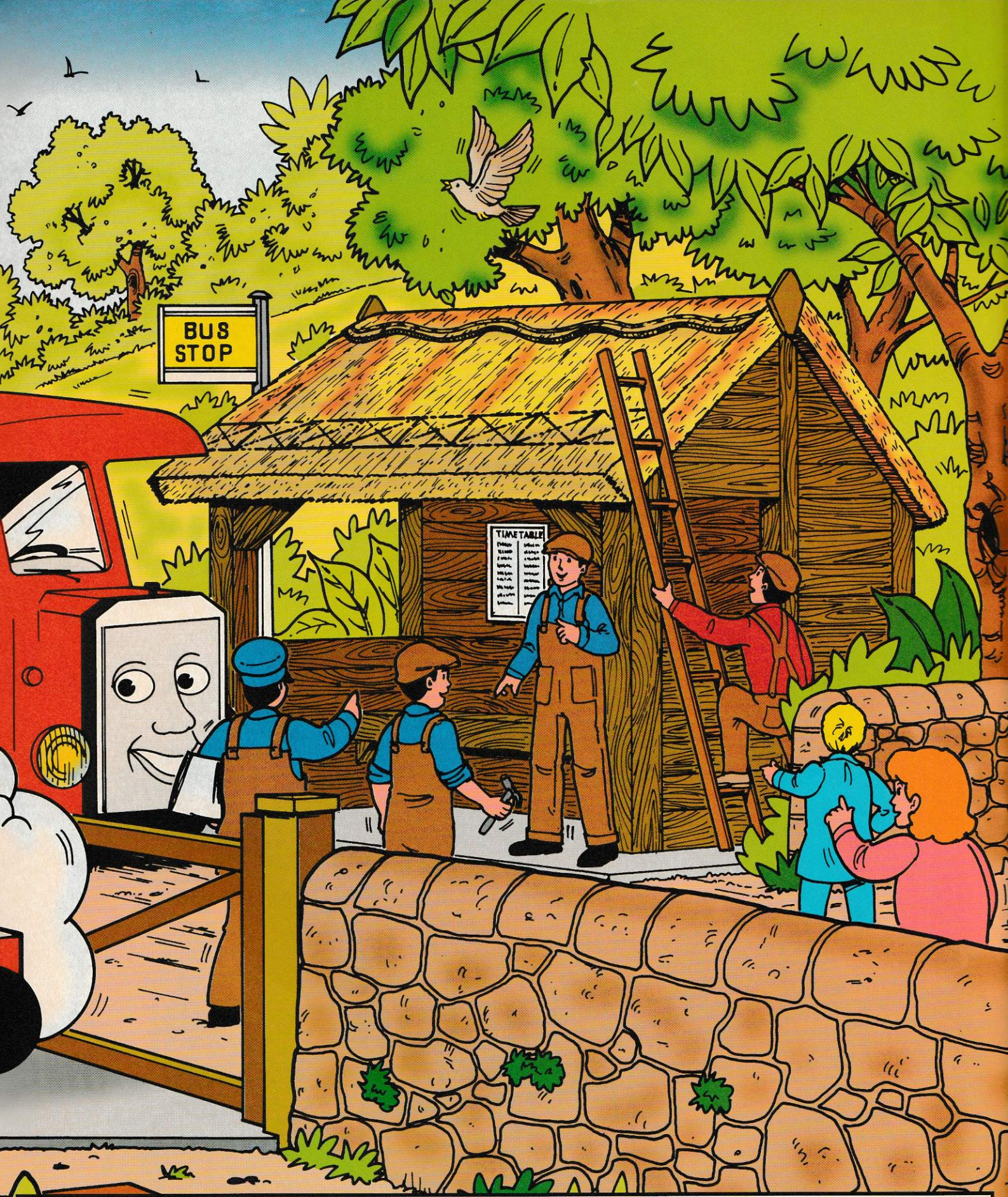


9. Soon he stopped at the signal by the cottage again. The thatcher had finished the roof. “I’ve come to collect these spare bundles of thatch,” he told Thomas’ driver.

10. When Thomas returned to the Main Station yard, he saw the unused railway sleepers stacked nearby. Then he remembered Bertie’s passengers and had a clever idea.

11. He spoke to the Fat Controller who rang the bus company. Next, the Fat Controller found out where the Thatcher lived and went to call on him. The man was pleased to help.

12. "After all, Thomas helped me!" he smiled. Later, Thomas took a works train to the bus stop by the level-crossing. The railway gangers were met by men from the bus depot.



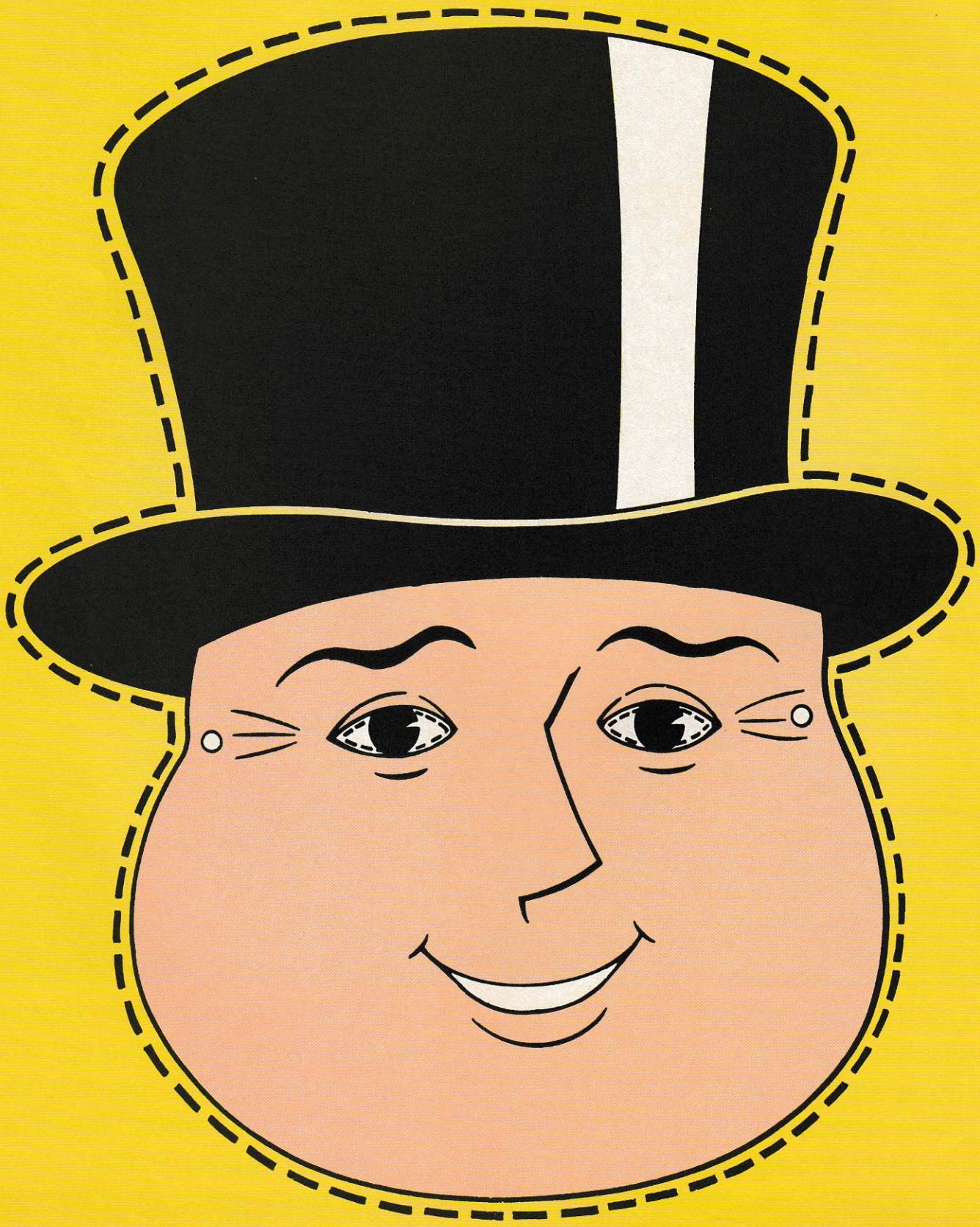
13. The thatcher arrived, too. He brought his spare bundles of thatch. Everyone set to work at the bus stop. The sleepers and thatch were used to build a new bus shelter.

14. Another sleeper was made into a bench. Then Bertie drove up. "Your passengers can wait here and stay dry now," said Thomas. "Just like at a station!" smiled Bertie.

PEEP! PEEP!
THE END!

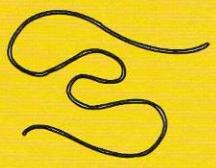
Make a

You can pretend to be Thomas or even the Fat Controller! Pull out these centre pages and stick them on some card. Ask a grown-up to cut along the dotted lines. Fix a piece of string through the holes marked on your masks. Now you're ready to play! Peep! Peep!



mask!

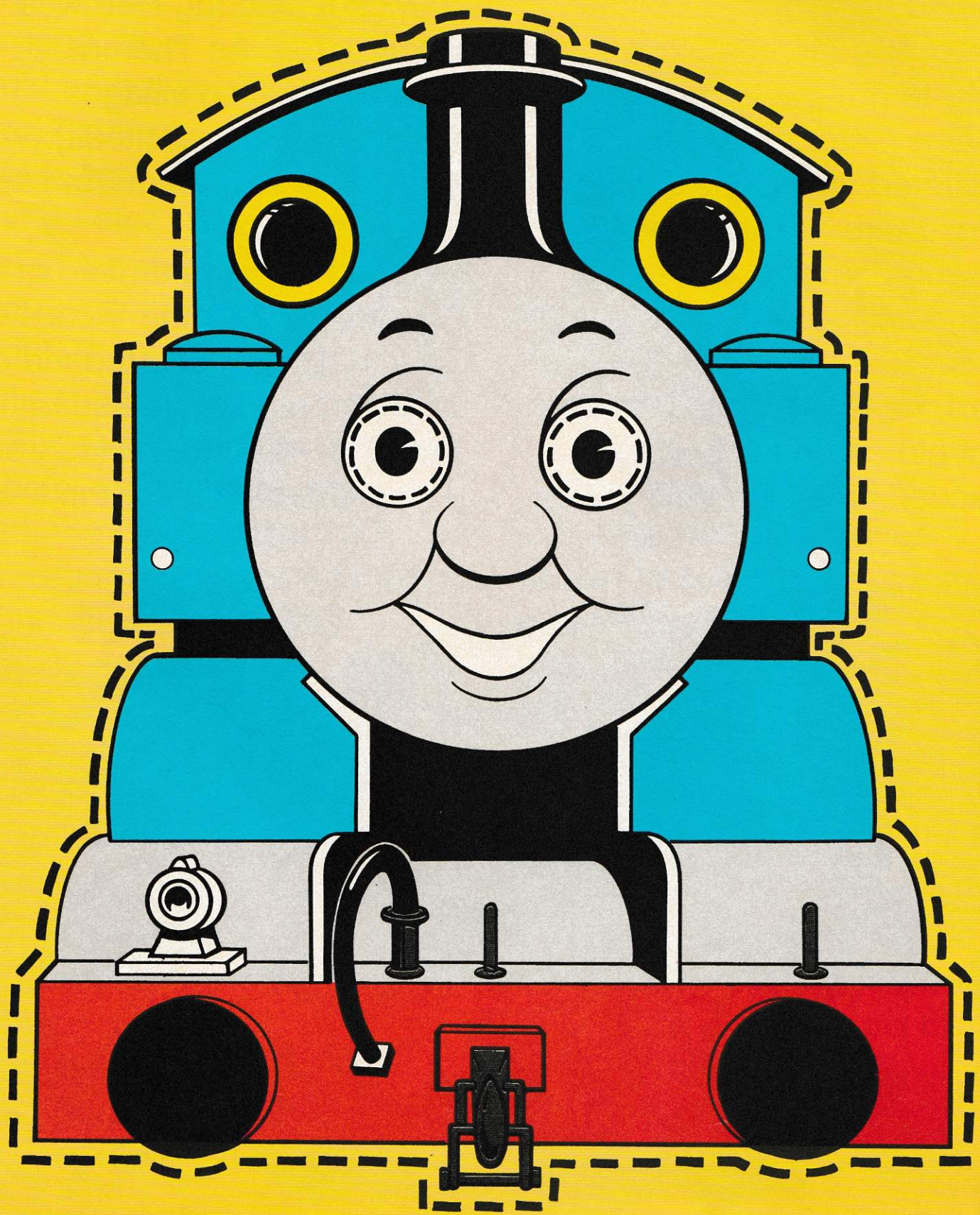
You will need:



String

Scissors

Thin card



The Play Train!

Oliver never liked visiting the scrap-yard because he had been saved from scrap. "It's the last place I want to go," he thought.

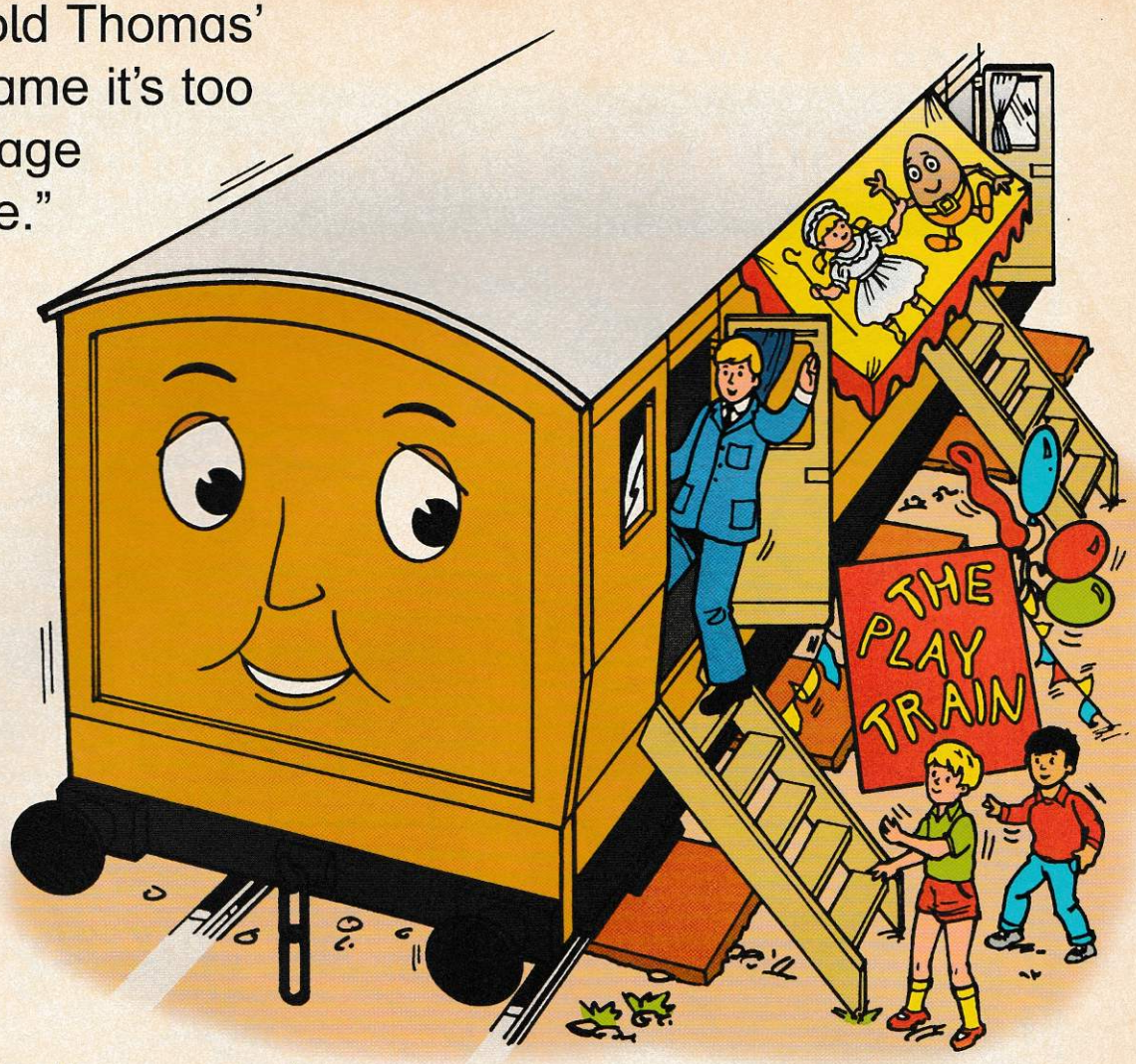
One Saturday, as he delivered unwanted engine parts there, he saw an old railway carriage. Oliver felt very sad.

Back at the Main Station yard, he told Thomas. "I wish that old carriage could be rescued, like me," said Oliver.

Thomas set off, pulling a passenger train along his branch line. Lady Hatt was aboard, too. As Thomas passed outlying villages, children waved excitedly. Lady Hatt saw them from her carriage window.

Soon Thomas arrived at the station near the Vicar's church. Lady Hatt stepped out of Clarabel. "I promised to help the vicar run a playgroup in the church hall for the local

children," she told Thomas' driver. "It's a shame it's too far for those village children to come." Thomas was listening. He remembered Oliver's old carriage. "It could be put to good use!" he said to his driver. Later, the driver told Lady Hatt about Thomas' brilliant idea.



The Fat Controller agreed to help. He sent Oliver to fetch the old carriage from the scrap-yard and take it to the Works. It was specially painted and fitted out. At last, everything was arranged.

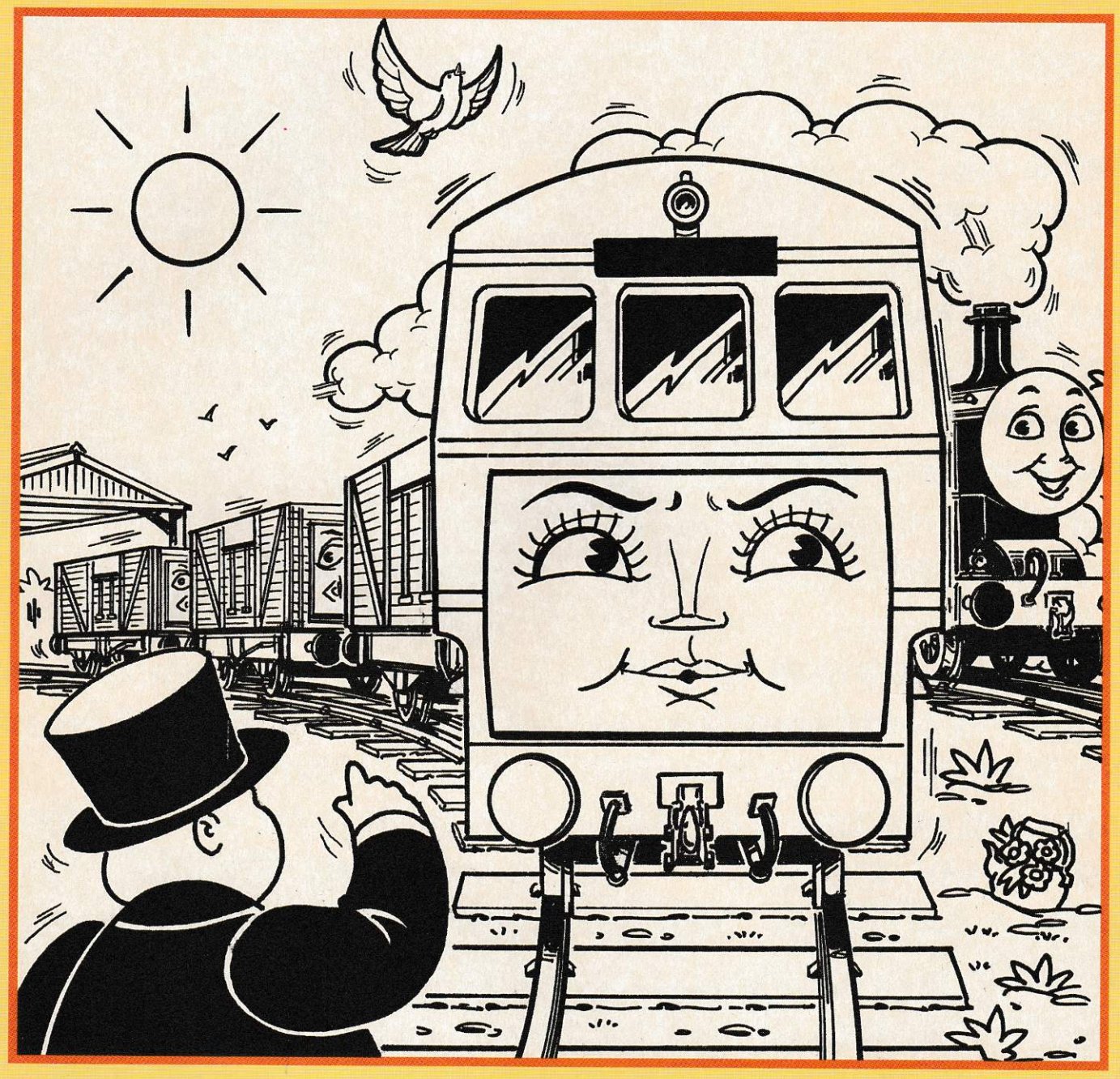
Then, one weekend, Thomas was coupled to the bright carriage. It had Humpty Dumpty and Little Bo Peep painted on the outside. Inside the carriage, were all sorts of books, crayons, paper, paints and many other things.

Lady Hatt and the Vicar arrived at the Main Station. They climbed into the colourful carriage. Oliver stared in surprise. "Is it for passengers, Thomas?" he asked. "No," smiled Thomas. "It's a Play Train for all the village children. It is going to stop near a different village every week."

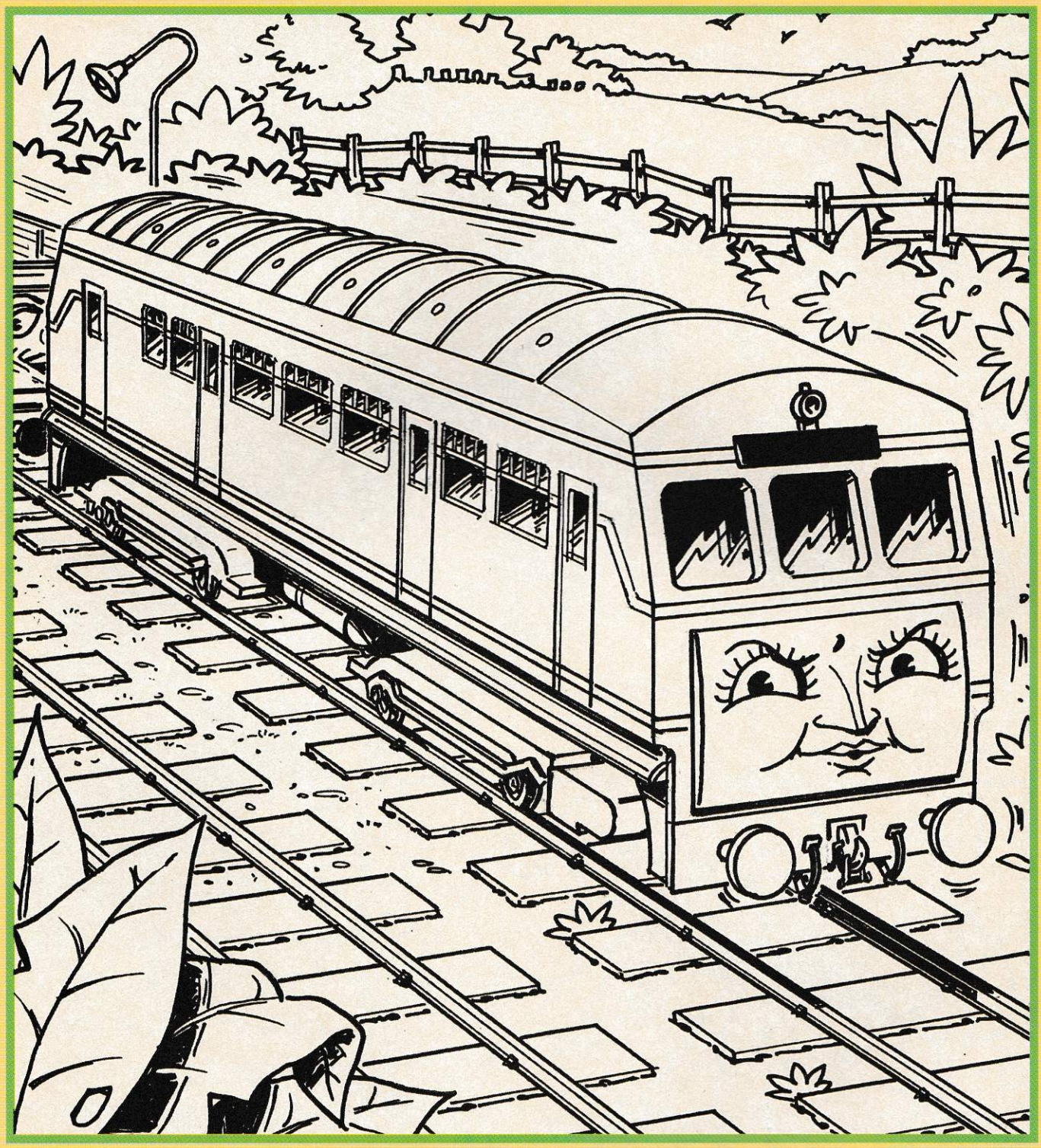
The Play Train was a big success. The village children really enjoyed its visits. Oliver was pleased, too. "Now I've helped to save someone from scrap!" he thought, proudly.

A read & colour story

Daisy And The Missing Trucks!

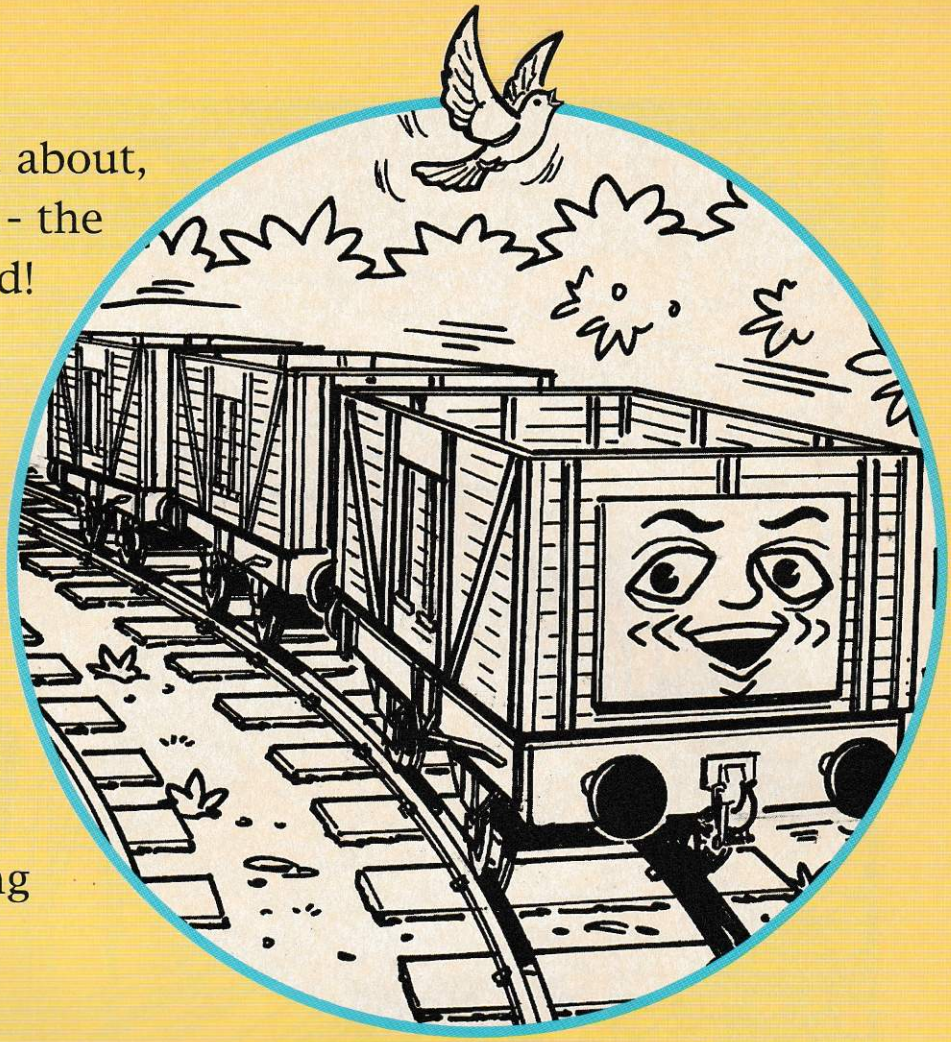


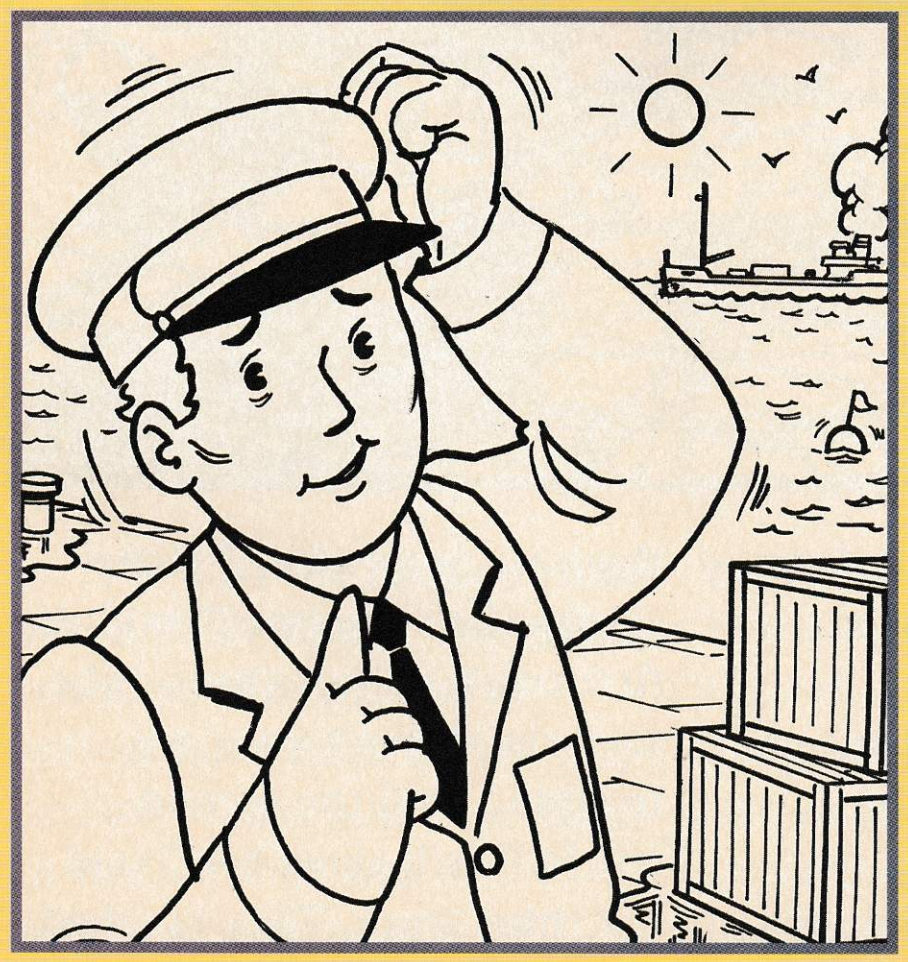
1 One day, the Fat Controller asked Daisy to take the goods trucks to the harbour to collect some freight. "Oh, Sir, couldn't I take some carriages to the harbour and collect some passengers instead?" asked Daisy. "No, Daisy," said the Fat Controller. "We need that freight urgently and all the other engines are busy." Daisy wasn't happy. "I don't like pulling trucks," she told Edward when the Fat Controller had gone. "Those trucks are troublesome."



2 The trucks heard Daisy complaining about them. "What a cheek!" they whispered to each other, as they set off towards the harbour. Just then, Daisy called out, "I don't want any trouble from you trucks. I'm the boss, remember." Daisy thinks she's the boss!" said the first truck to the others. "She says she doesn't want any trouble," said the second truck. "We'll show her," said the third truck. They laughed mischievously.

3 The trucks jiggled about, until - one, two, three - the trucks came uncoupled! Daisy didn't hear a peep from the trucks as she chuffed towards the harbour. "Why, they're not being troublesome at all!" she said to herself. But she didn't know that the trucks weren't trundling along behind her!



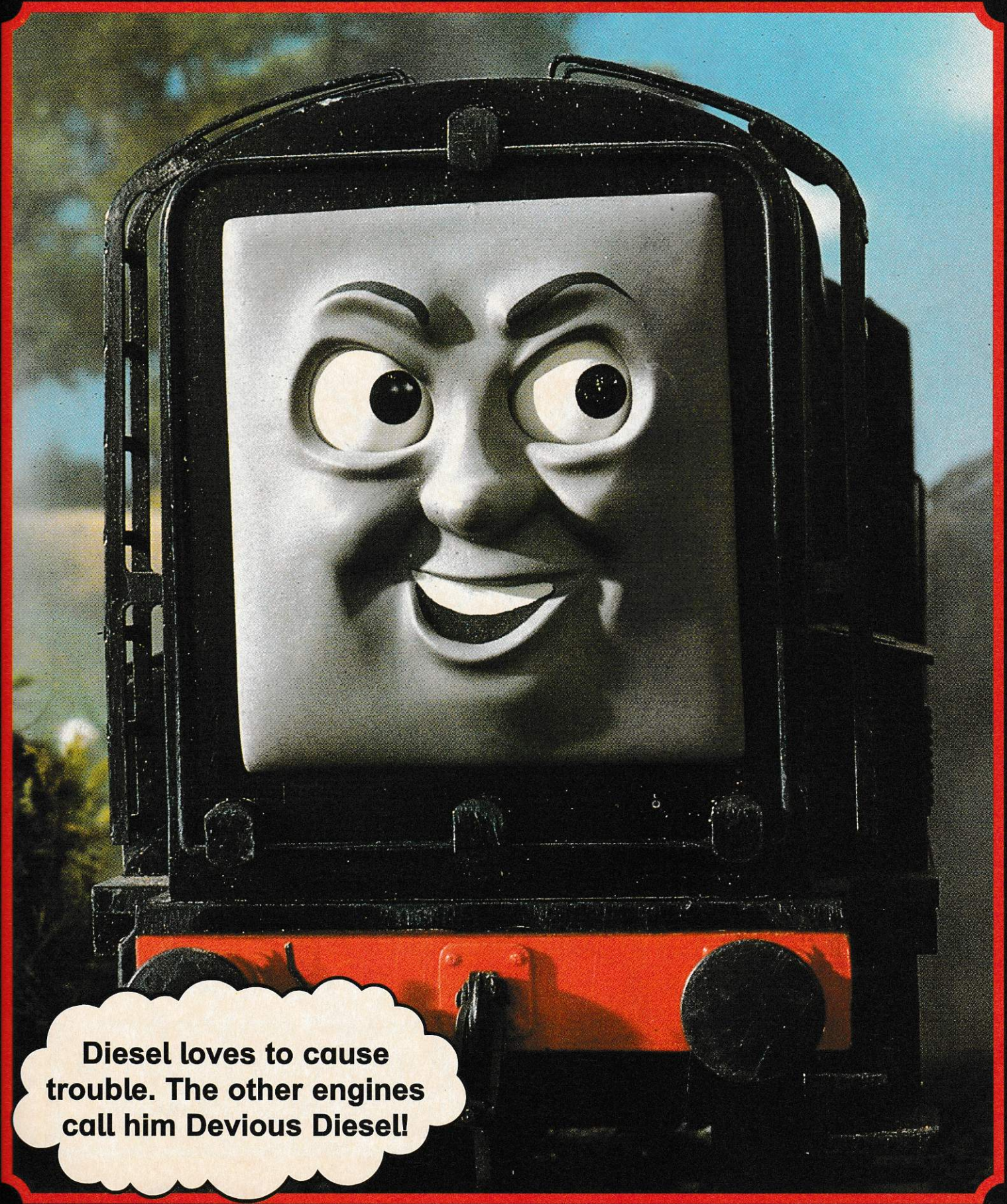


4 When Daisy arrived at the harbour station, the freight had already been unloaded from the boat. "Where are the trucks?" asked the stationmaster. "This delivery is urgent!" Daisy gulped. She suddenly realised that her trucks were missing! "I knew those trucks would be troublesome!" Daisy said crossly. The stationmaster was as puzzled as Daisy.

5 The stationmaster called the Fat Controller on the telephone."Oh dear," said the Fat Controller. "That means that the trucks are still on the track. I'll notify the signalman. We don't want any accidents! Then I'll send Edward to collect them." When Edward arrived with the trucks, Daisy thanked him. "I don't mind," said Edward, "but perhaps you should apologise to the trucks." "I'm sorry," Daisy told the trucks. "I won't be bossy next time." "And we won't be so troublesome," the trucks replied. together.

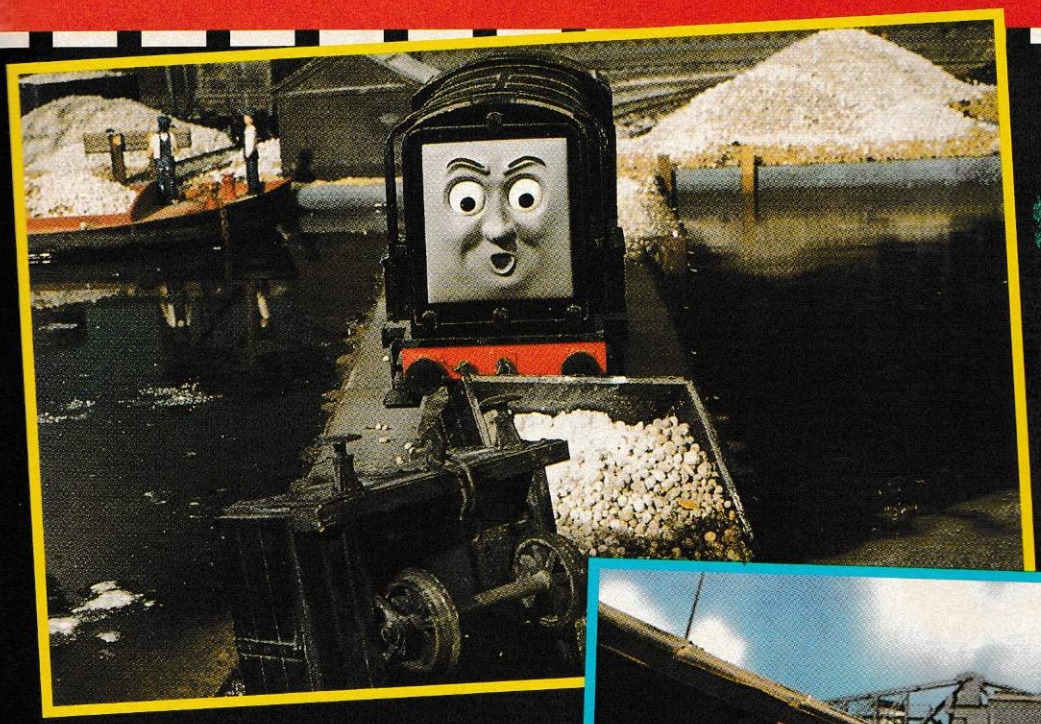
The end

All abou



Diesel loves to cause trouble. The other engines call him Devious Diesel!

t Diesel!



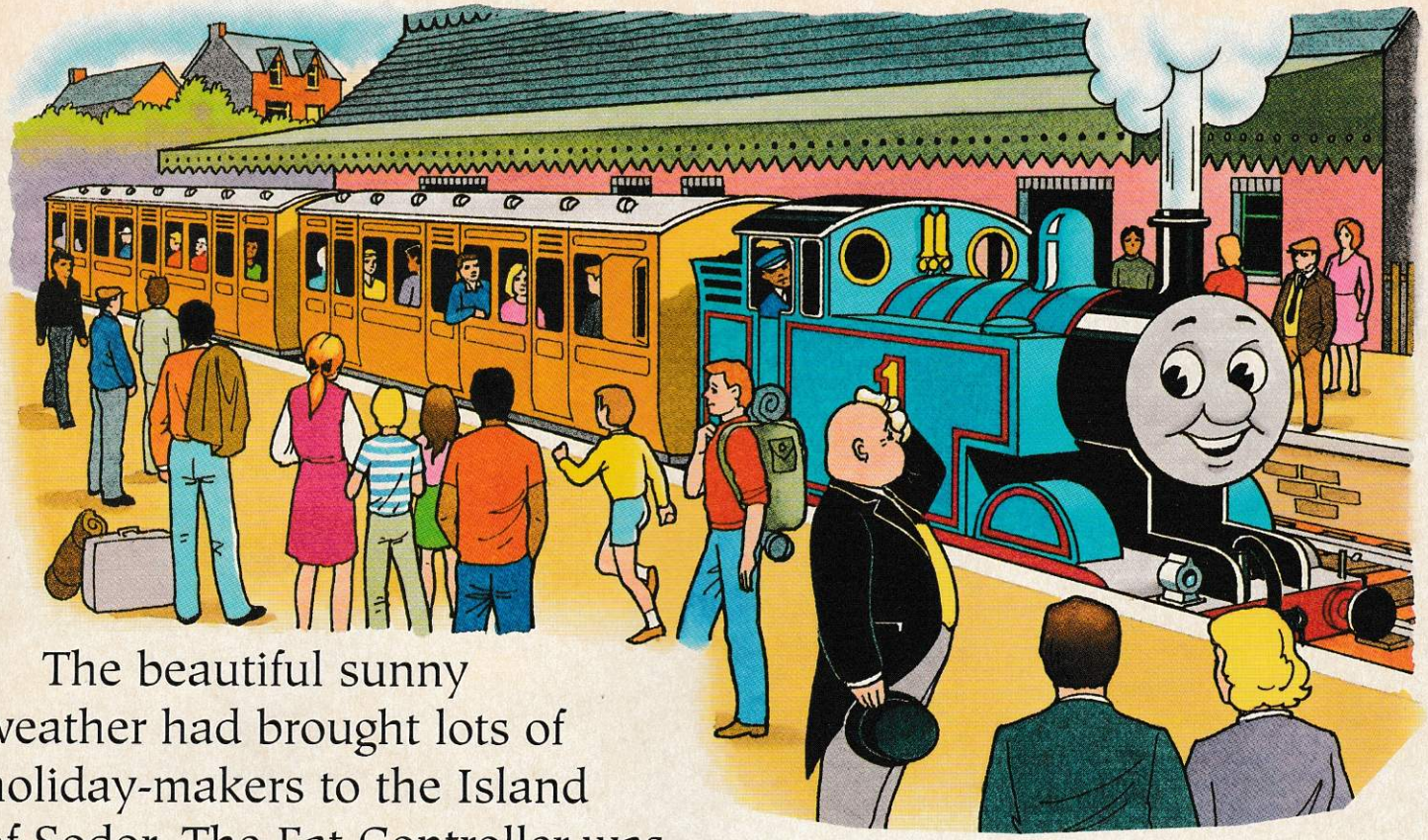
Oily and naughty, he's always planning new ways to cause mischief on the Fat Controller's railway.

Diesel's behaviour has got better since he first arrived but if he's smiling you know that someone, somewhere, is in for a spot of bother.

Win a model Diesel!

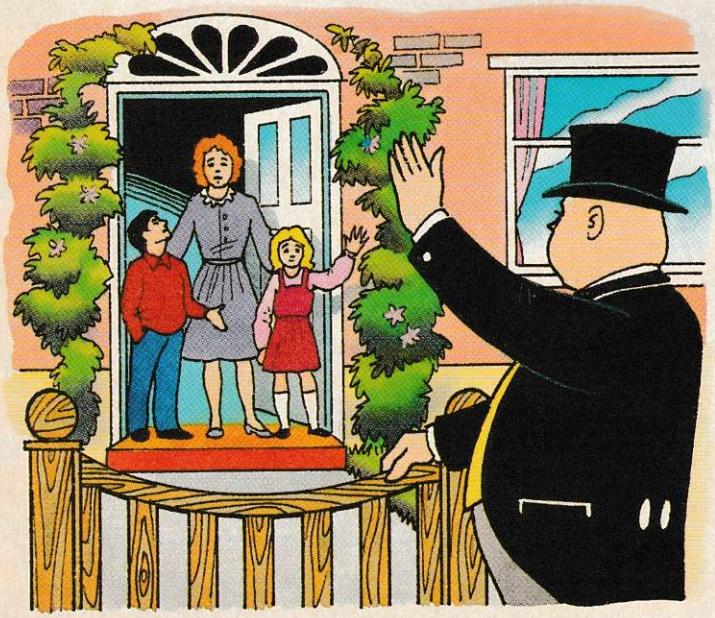
Five lucky winners will win a splendid model Diesel from the ERTL engine range! Just send a post card, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/Diesel model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ. Closing date: July 20th 1996. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Diesel.

Station Mystery

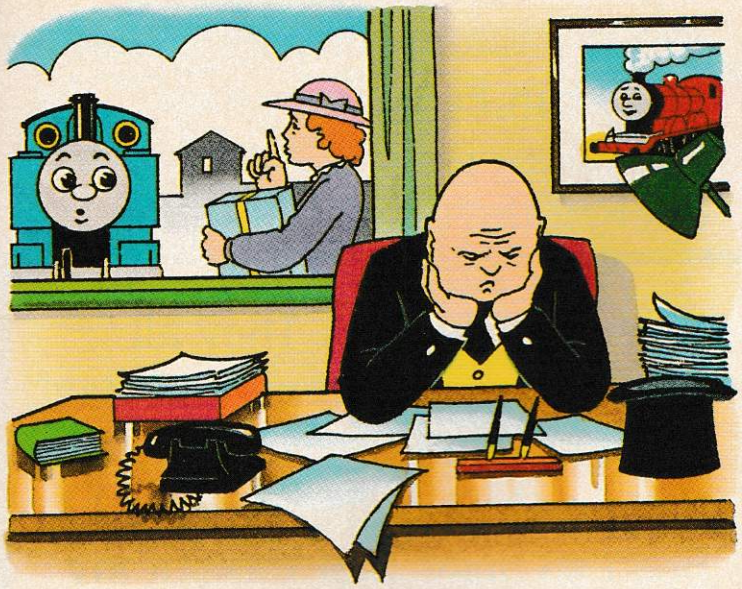


The beautiful sunny weather had brought lots of holiday-makers to the Island of Sodor. The Fat Controller was very busy organising trips to the seaside and days out in the country. He was so busy, in fact, that he even forgot it was his birthday on Saturday!

When Saturday came, the Fat Controller was up very early. He waved goodbye to Lady Hatt, and Stephen and Bridget. "See you later!" he called. Then he set off for his office at the Main Station. The children were disappointed. "He's forgotten what day it is!" Stephen said. "What a shame," replied Bridget. "We'll have to give him his cards and presents when he gets home." "I've a better idea," said Lady Hatt brightly.



That afternoon, the Fat Controller was busy working out a new engine timetable in his office. He did not see Lady Hatt tiptoe past his office. She was carrying a large box into the

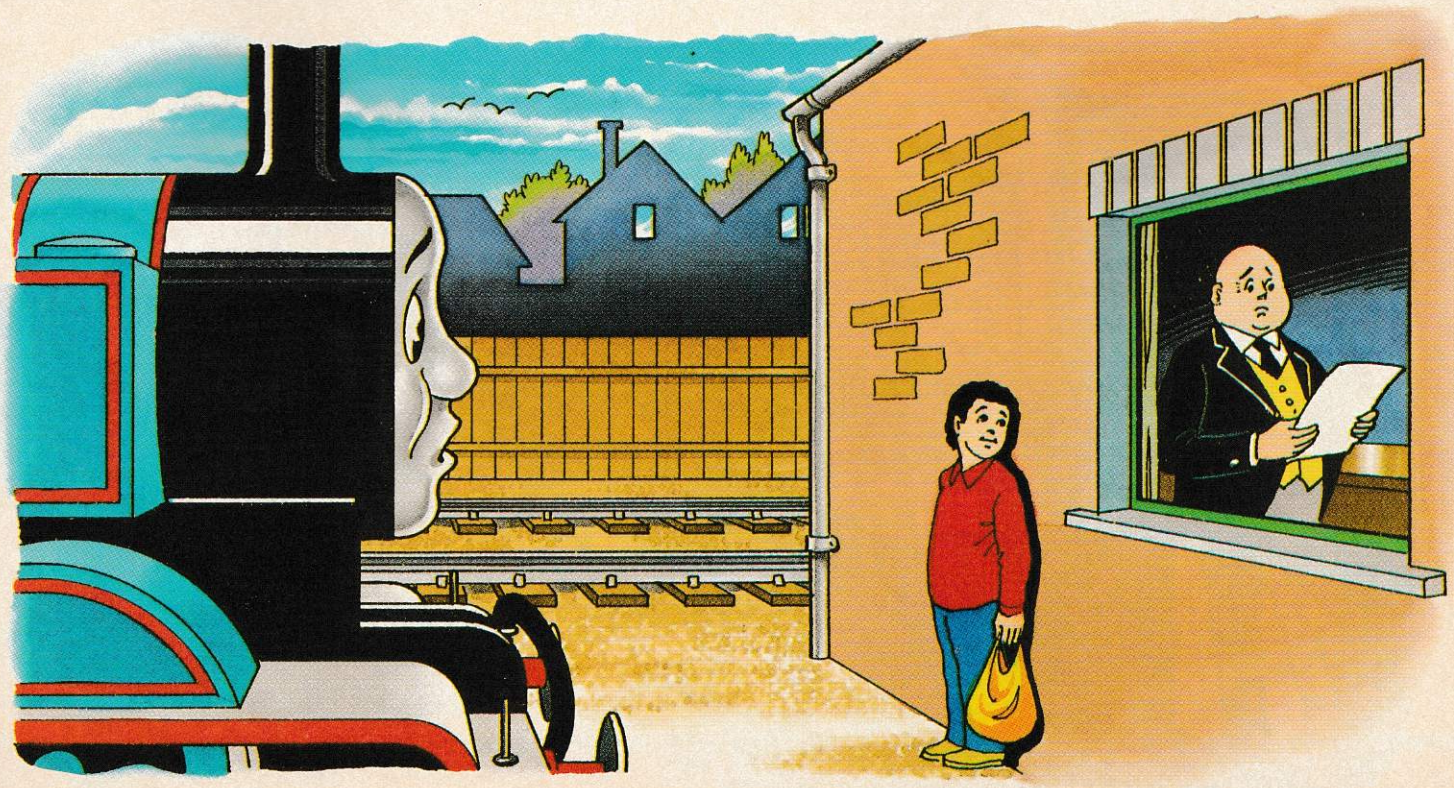


station waiting room. Thomas noticed her as he was shunting trucks in the yard, nearby.
"Peep! Peep!" he whistled.
"Ssssh!" said Lady Hatt. Thomas was puzzled. "What's going on?" he thought.

Next, he saw Bridget in the engine yard. She was talking to the drivers and pointing towards the Fat Controller's office. They were all laughing and nodding. Then Bridget waved to Thomas and disappeared into the waiting room after Lady Hatt.

Shortly afterwards, Thomas spotted Stephen. He was trying to sneak past a window. Just then, the Fat Controller walked by and Stephen quickly hid so he could not be seen.
"Why is everyone behaving so strangely?" thought Thomas, "Perhaps they're playing a game of hide and seek!"

When the engines had finished work, all the railway staff went to the waiting room. Then Lady Hatt asked Thomas' driver to call the Fat Controller. "You're wanted in the station



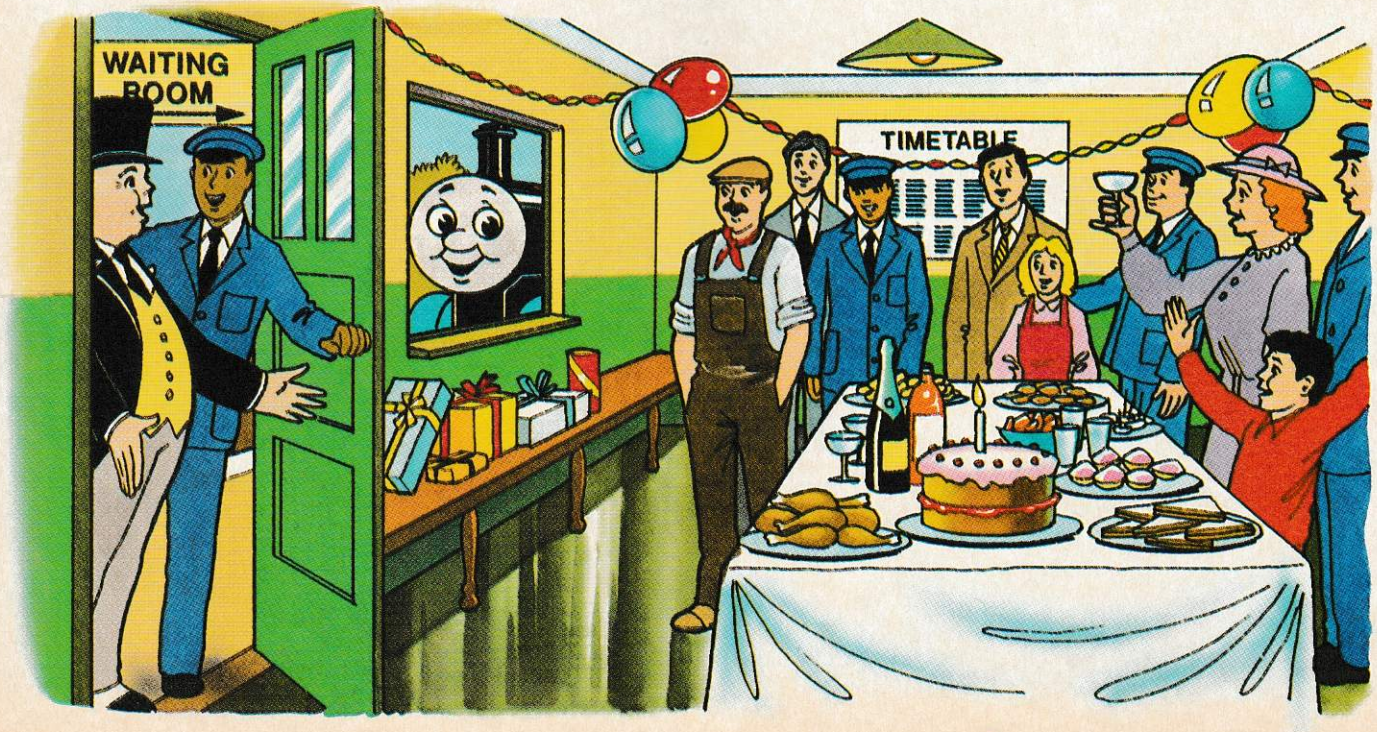
waiting room, Sir" he told him. The Fat Controller frowned, "Oh dear, I hope there aren't any problems," he said.

On the way, the Fat Controller stopped. "I'd better call Lady Hatt and tell her I'll be home late," he said. The driver had to think quickly! "Oh no, Sir, I think you'd better hurry, this is an emergency!" "What on earth can be so important?" the Fat Controller exclaimed as he opened the door.

"Your surprise party!" everyone cheered. They all began to sing 'Happy Birthday'. The Fat Controller was delighted. "Goodness me! I have been so busy, that I forgot my own birthday!" The waiting room was decorated with balloons and streamers. There were presents, a cake and lots of delicious food on a table.

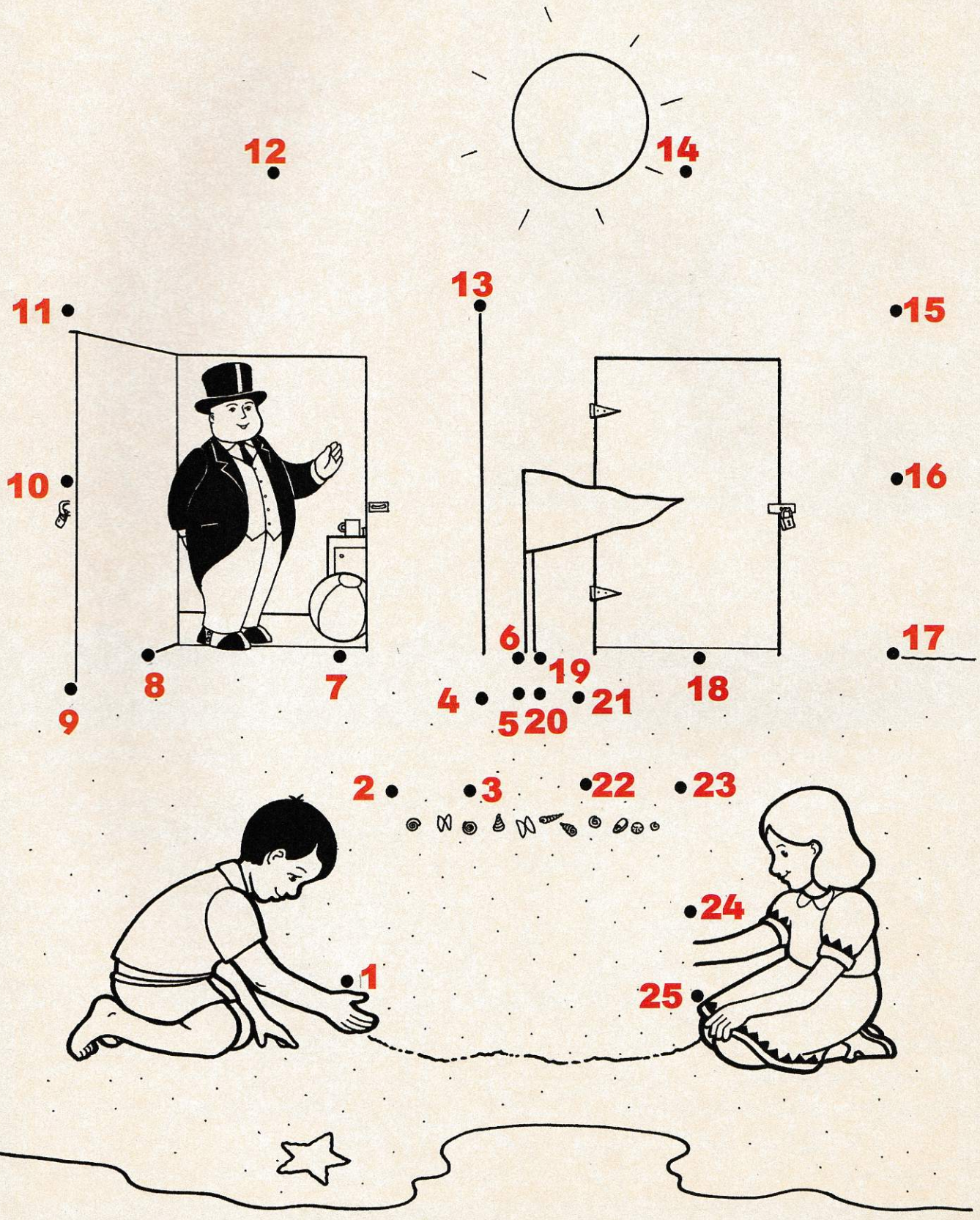
Thomas had been so curious that he was peeking through the window. "Mystery solved!" he laughed.

THE END



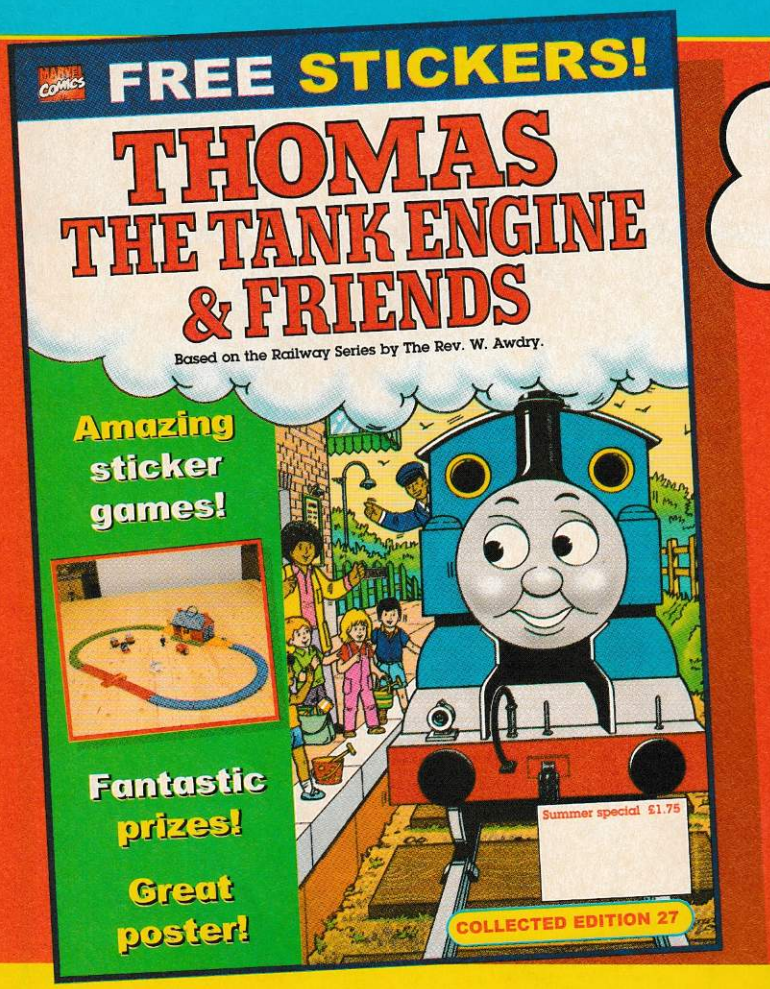
Dot to dot!

Stephen with his bucket and Bridget with her spade, join the dots to find out what they've made!



When you have finished colour this page!

Summer Special!



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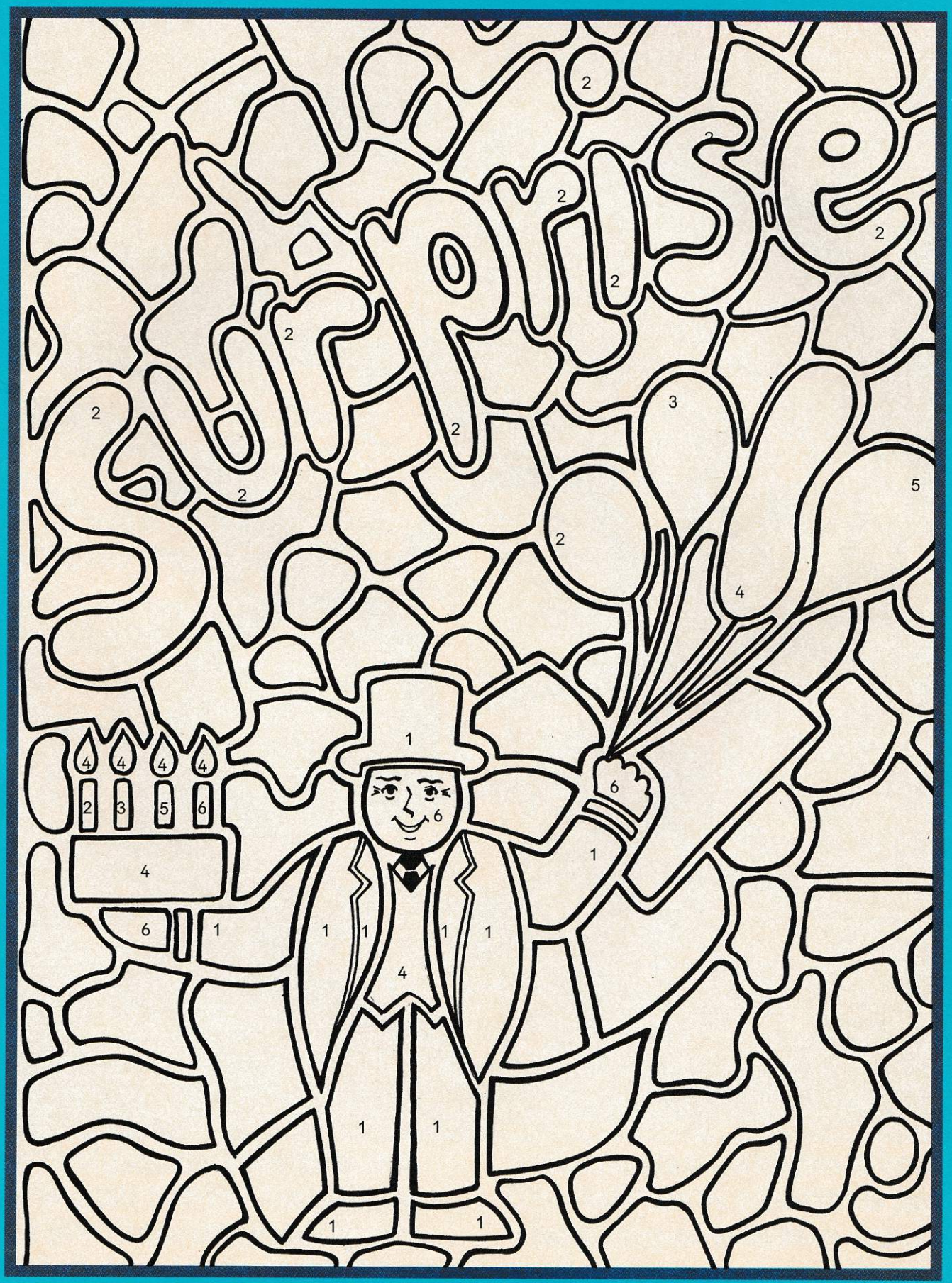
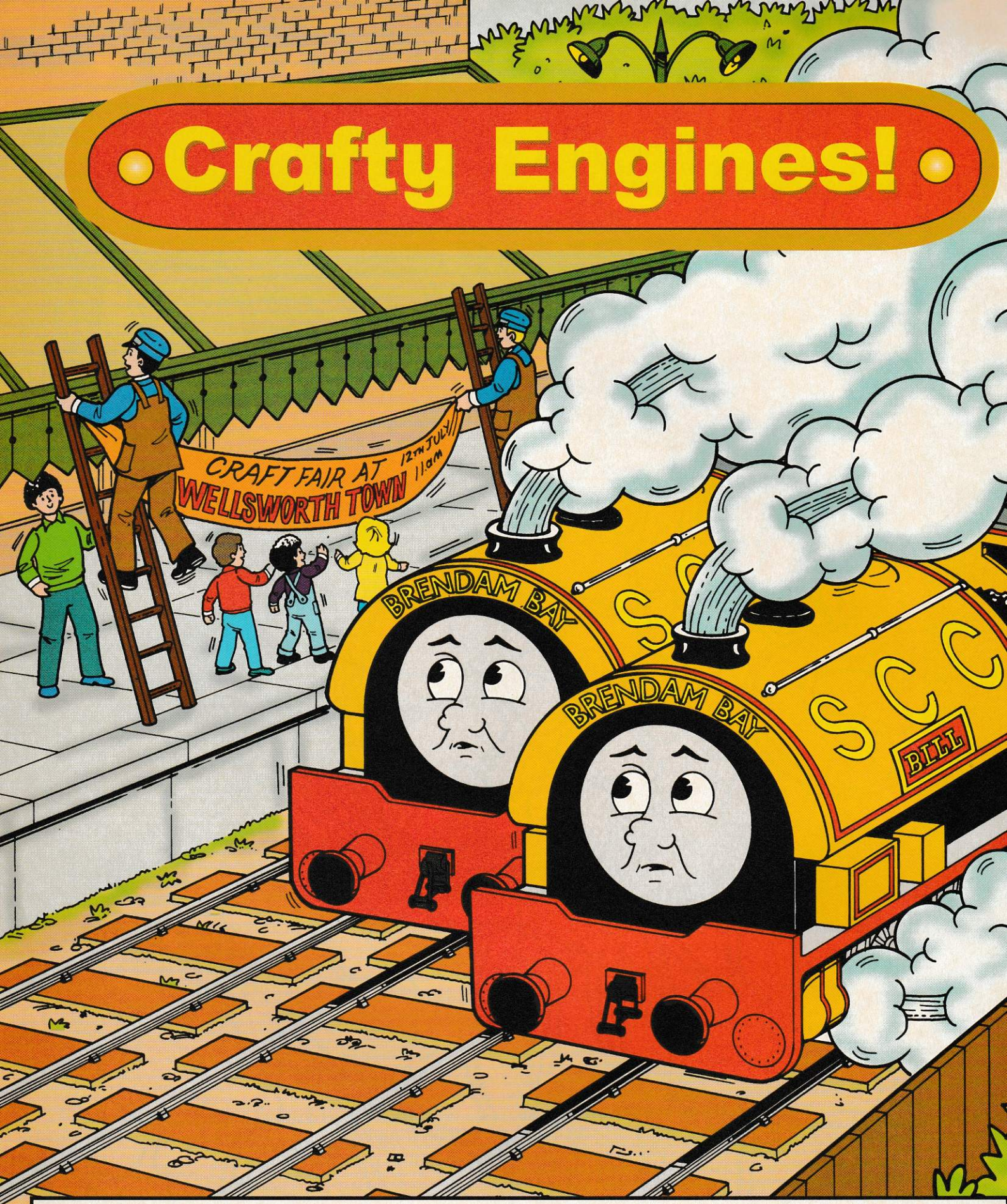
Colour Magic!

What's hidden in the picture? Find out by filling in the shapes with the colours listed below!



1. Black 2. Red 3. Blue 4. Yellow 5. Green 6. Pink

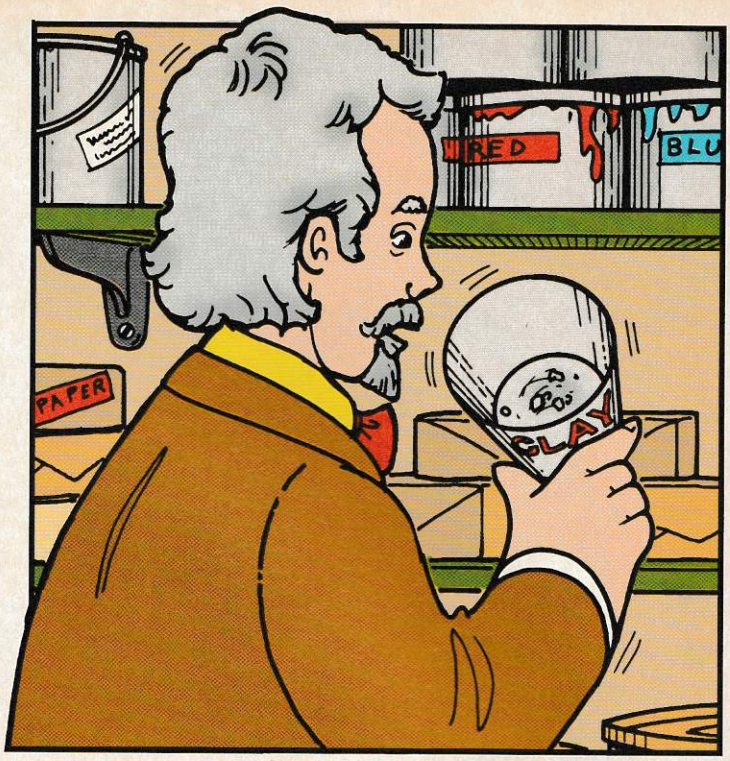
Crafty Engines!



1. It was a very busy weekend on the Island of Sodor. At the Main Station the guards were putting up a big banner which read "Craft Fair at Wellsworth Town Hall!"

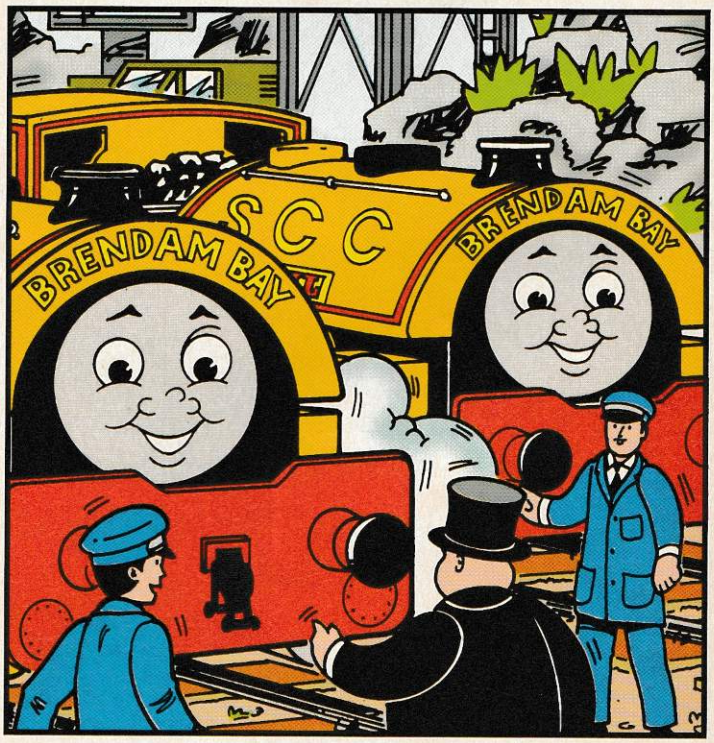
2. "I wish we could stay and carry passengers." sighed Bill and Ben as they puffed off to work. "We feel left out being stuck down at the clay pits all the time!"

3. The school children at the local school were very excited. Their headmaster had promised them they could make some clay models to be exhibited at the craft fair.



4. "There is no clay left," said the Art teacher, as he came back from the store room."I'll telephone the station and see if our order has arrived there yet."

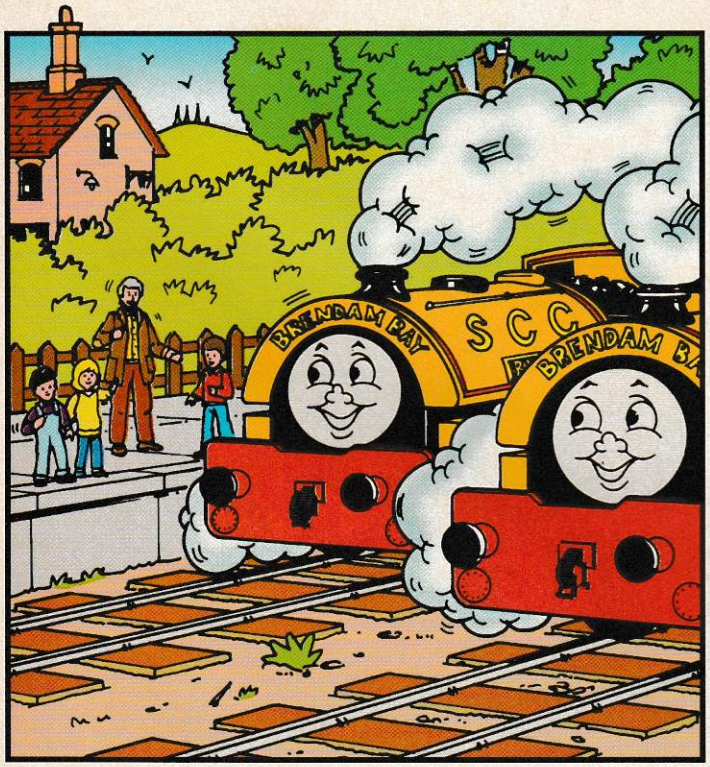
5. "I'm afraid no bags of clay have arrived for you," the Fat Controller replied, "But I have an idea. Two of my Really Useful Engines may be able to help!"



6. "I've a special task for Bill and Ben," said the Fat Controller to their drivers. "Could they take some bags of clean clay up to Wellsworth school as quickly as possible?"

7. "Pah, it's not fair," moaned Bill as the two engines set off for the school together. "All the others are helping to get things ready for the fair but we just carry clay."

8. "Yes but the Fat Controller said this is a special task. I wonder if it's anything to do with the craft fair?" pondered Ben as the chimneys of the school came into view.



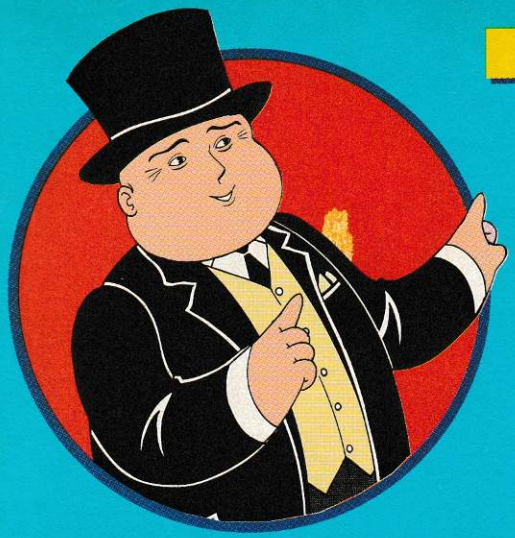
9. The two engines saw a crowd of children waiting at the station near the school. "Hip hip hooray. Bill and Ben have saved the day!" they cheered excitedly.

10. The clay was delivered to the art room and the children quickly got down to making models. "This is the most exciting art lesson they've ever had!" smiled their teacher.

11. The Fat Controller was very pleased with the twin engines. He invited them to be official display engines in the siding near the craft fair. People paid to sit in their cabs and see what it felt like to be a train driver. "This certainly makes a change from working in the clay pits," laughed Ben. Bill happily agreed. Both engines felt very important indeed.

12. On the last day of the craft fair, Bill and Ben stood proudly side by side in the siding. The art teacher brought some of the school children to see them. "We've got a special surprise for you both," said the art teacher. The children handed their engine drivers two boxes tied with ribbon. Inside were two clay models of Bill and Ben made by the children to say thank you!

PEEP! PEEP!
THE END!



The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller
Where did Annie and Clarabel come from?
Love from Thomas Hunter, aged 4

They were bought second-hand from the mainland and given to Thomas as a reward for being a Really Useful Engine!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

Here is Percy puffing through the forest by Iain Waddingham, aged 4!

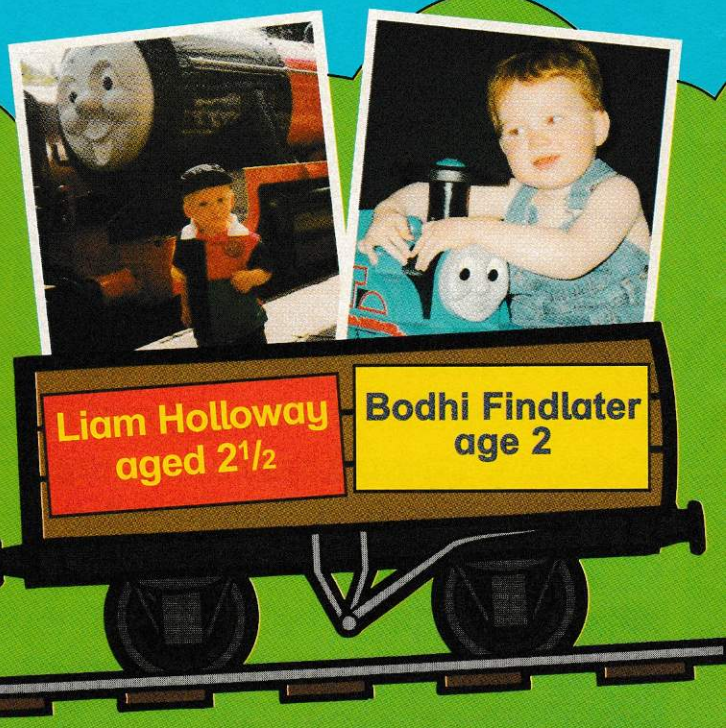
Prize Poem!

Thank you to Kate Jackson, aged 7, for this funny little poem!

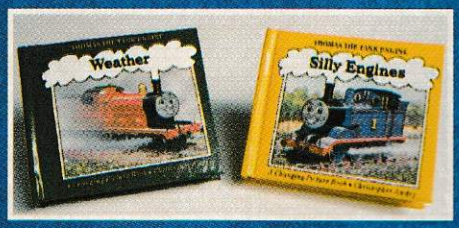
Bill and Ben race
down the track,
What cheeky engines they are!
Joking and teasing,
they laugh all the way,
But Bill is the winner by far!

Happy Birthday

TO... Lauren Winterbottom, age 2, Adam Cottington, age 5, Daniel Donaghy, age 6, Darryl Gray, age 3 James Swan, age 4

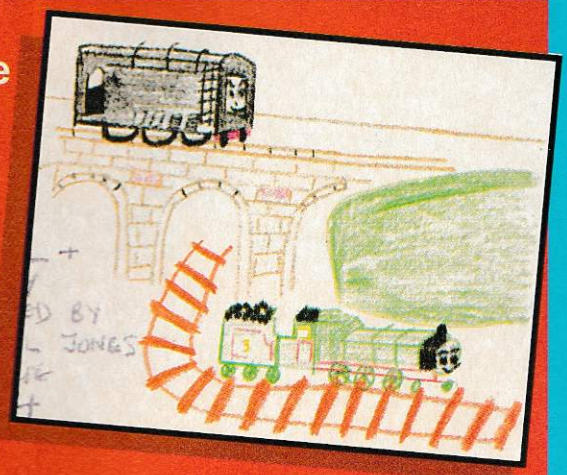


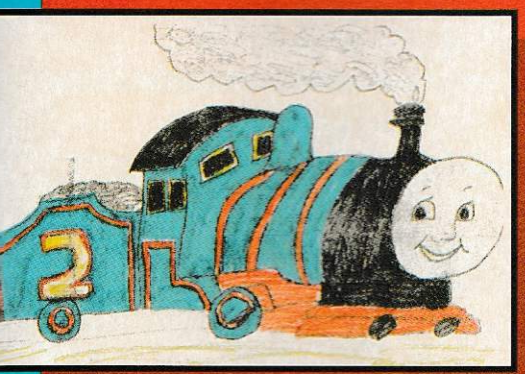
ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

This picture of oily Diesel was drawn by Sam Jones aged 4!





A happy looking Thomas drawn by Pierre Keyzar, aged 3!

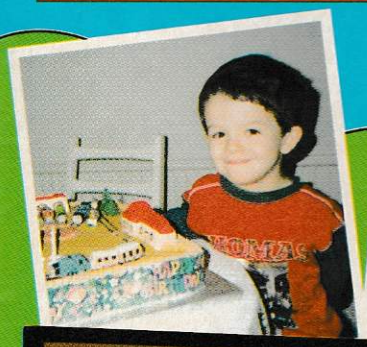
Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

What are secret agent's favourite animals?
Spy-ders!
Neil Hendry, age 8

What flies and wobbles?
A Jellycopter!
Daniel Read

What snakes are good at sums?
Adders!
Jason Riley, age 6

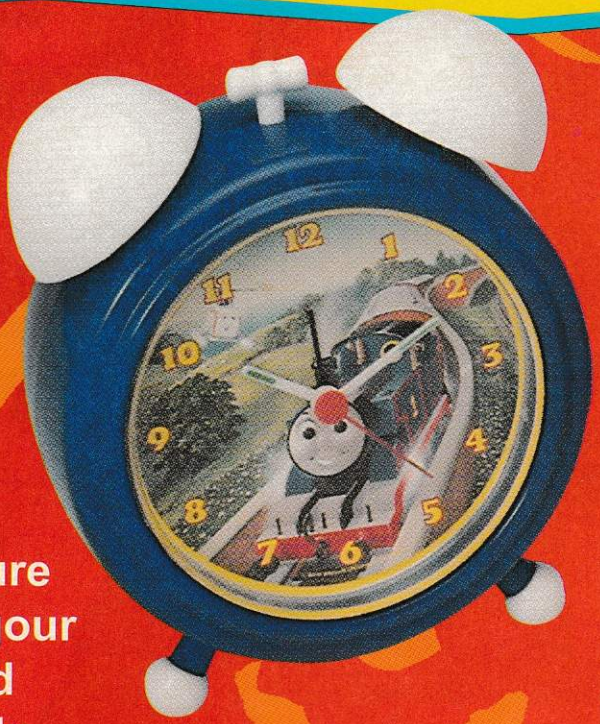


Matthew Giles aged 4

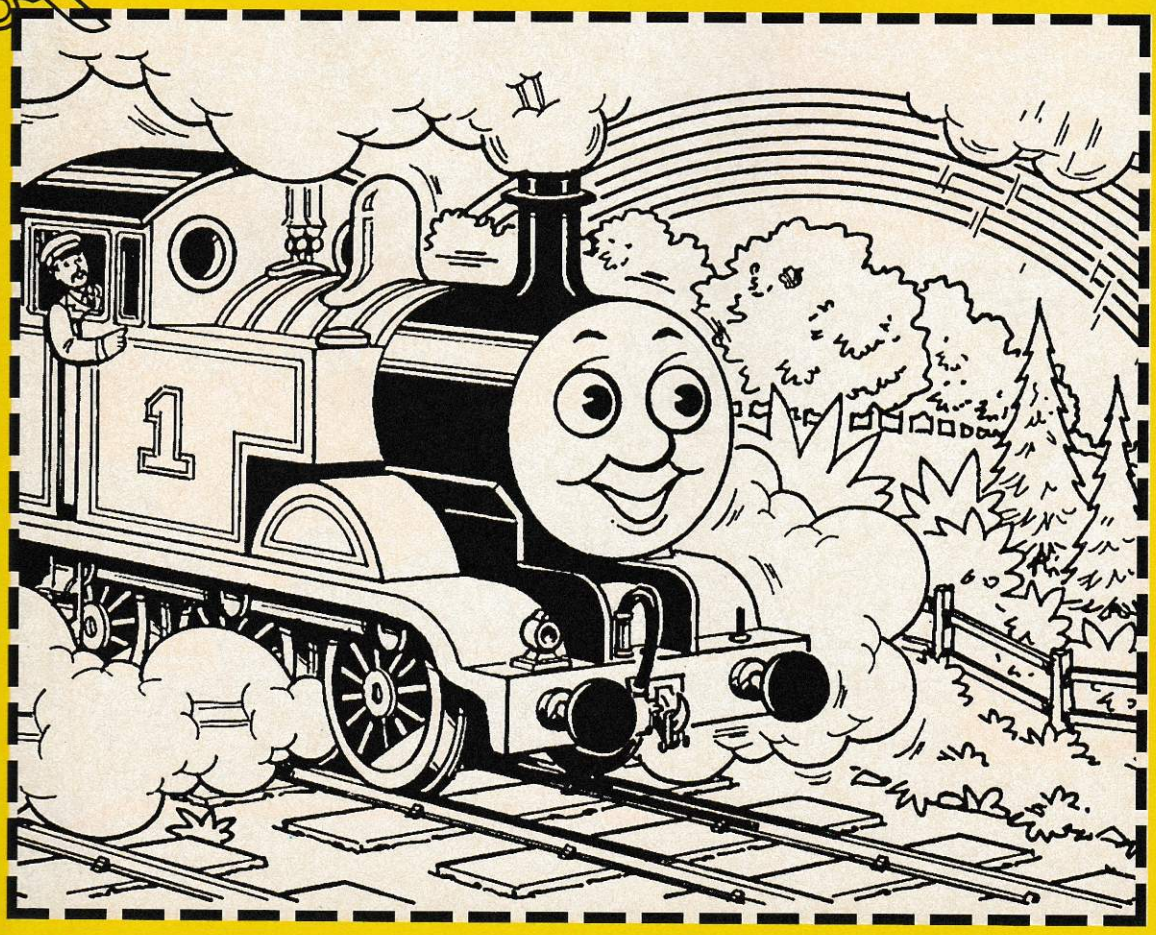
Olly Duce age 3

Keep time with Thomas!

12 lucky readers can win their very own Thomas alarm clock and musical wrist watch!



For your chance to win, simply colour in the picture of Thomas below. Send your entry with your name and address to; Thomas clock competition, Heart Fashions and Designs, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, W Midlands, WS9 9LR. All entries must be received by 20th July 1996.



Heart Fashions and Designs stock over 100 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182, quoting reference 228, or write to them at the competition address above.

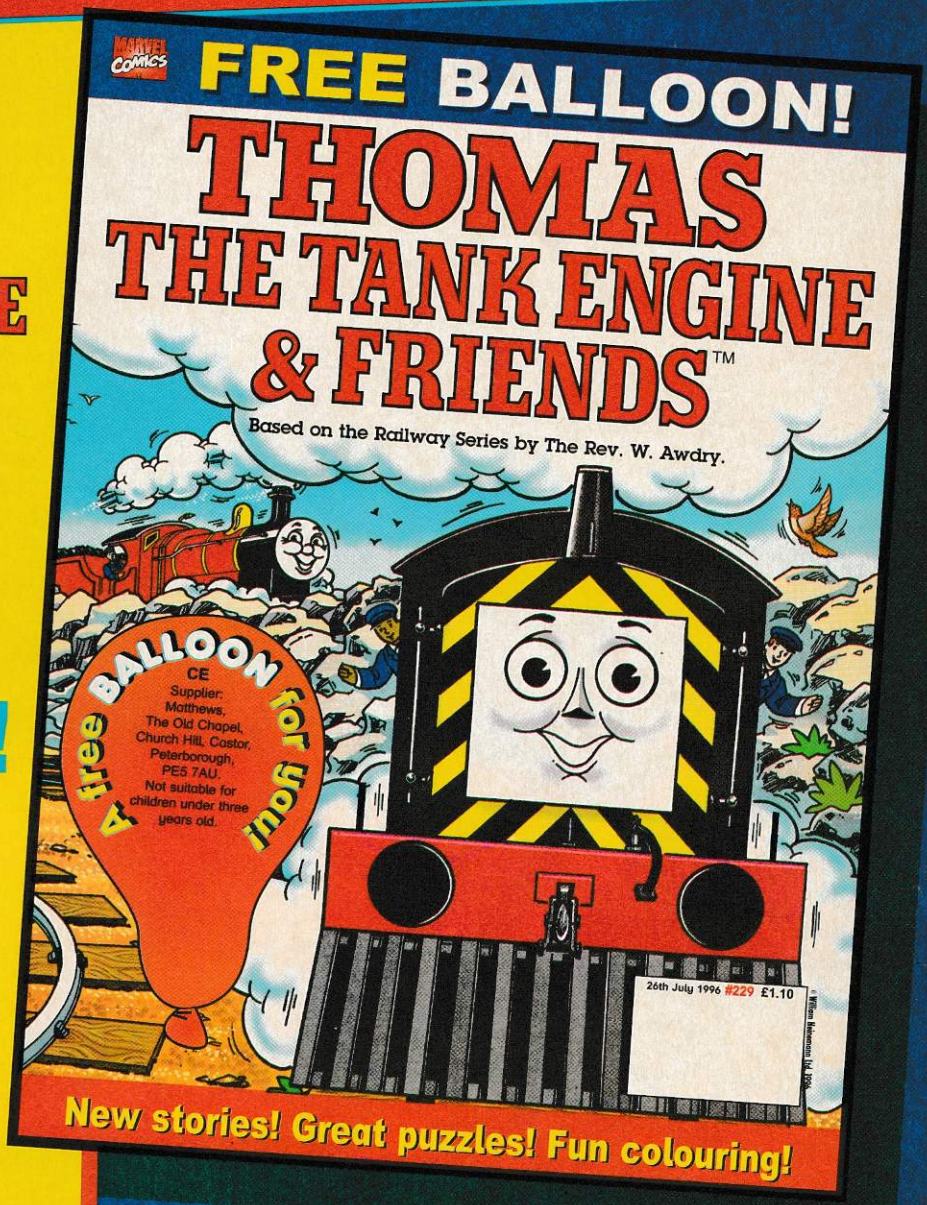
This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Peep! Peep! All aboard for . . .

Issue 229 of
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Stories and colouring!

Puzzles and games!



FREE Balloon!

On sale from 12th July!

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS!

Dear Newsagent,
Please reserve / deliver all future issues of Thomas The Tank Engine and Friends

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Post Code.....

Signature of parent / guardian

.....

Thank you

THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Photo album
RUSTY
5
RUSTY